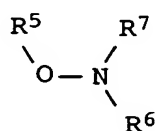
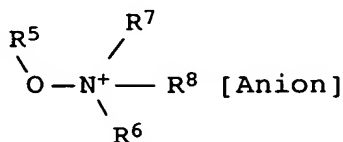


## New Patent Claims:-

1. A process for the production of semifinished products and intermediates in the production of leather using one or more organic polyelectrolytes, comprising at least one of the following steps:
  - (a) Addition of one or more polyelectrolytes and from 0 to 0.7% by weight, based on the salted weight, of lime immediately before or during the liming,
  - (b) addition of one or more polyelectrolytes before or during the bating,
  - (c) addition of one or more polyelectrolytes and a total of from 0 to 3% by weight, based on the pelt weight, of an alkali metal or alkaline earth metal salt immediately before or in the pickle.
2. A process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the organic polyelectrolyte used is a polyampholyte.
3. A process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the organic polyelectrolyte used is a polyacid.
4. A process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the organic polyelectrolyte used is a polybase.
5. A process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the organic polyelectrolyte used is a polysalt.
6. A process as claimed in any of the preceding claims, wherein one or more hydroxylamine compounds of the formula XV a or XV b



XV a



XV b

where R<sup>5</sup> to R<sup>8</sup> are identical or different and are selected from

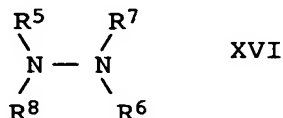
hydrogen,

C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>20</sub>-alkyl,

C<sub>6</sub>-C<sub>14</sub>-aryl,

5 and the anion is selected from halide, sulfate, hydrogen sulfate, phosphate, hydrogen phosphate and dihydrogen phosphate or mixtures thereof,

10 or one or more hydrazine compounds of the formula XVI,



15 which may be protonated and in which R<sup>5</sup> to R<sup>8</sup> are as defined above.

are furthermore added in step (a).

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7. A process as claimed in claim 6, wherein hydroxylamine is added in step (a).

8. A process as claimed in claim 6, wherein one or more  
25 hydroxylamine compounds of the formula XV a or XV b or one or more hydrazine compounds of the formula XVI are used together with alkali metal hydroxide and alkali metal carbonate in step (a).

30 9. A semifinished product or intermediate in the production of leather, produced by a process as claimed in any of claims 1 to 8.

10. The use of a semifinished product or intermediate in the  
35 production of leather, produced by a process as claimed in any of claims 1 to 8, for the production of leather.

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